DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED: Don Fortier / F Schmelzer DATE: 2/2/85
MARKING: ☐
RELEASABLE ☑
EXCISIONS ☐

R 39

FILE

QUESTIONS TAKEN AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING, FEBRUARY 15, 1978

MIDDLE EAST AIRCRAFT SALE PROPOSALS

Q. On what basis do you say that the arms sales will give Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia confidence to continue working toward a negotiated settlement? What is your reasoning for saying that these aircraft sale proposals will not affect the military balance in the region?

A. --Secretary Vance's announcement statement, the press briefing given by Administration officials and the Secretary's February 14 television interview all presented our reasoning for making these decisions. We have nothing to add.

--The entire subject will be gone into in depth during the extensive discussions we will be having with Congress.

Clearance: NEA - Mr. Atherton

NEA/P:REUndeland:rgh

F Schmalz 7/2/85 K

(40)

FILE

NEA PRESS BRIEFING PAPER February 15, 1978

Q. What can you say to answer the criticism that the F-15's for Saudi Arabia are really likely to upset the military balance because this sophisticated aircraft can be used against Israel? (and all such questions)

A. --I know there are a number of such questions, some of which have already been answered by senior officials of the State and Defense Departments.

--But the proper place for any further answers is in the testimony we will be presenting Congress in due course over coming weeks, and I have nothing to give you today.

Clearance: NEA - Mr. Atherton

NEA/P:GFSherman:rgh
1030